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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/078,723	02/19/2002	Scott P. Dubal	884.738US1	5435

21186 7590 07/14/2006

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. BOX 2938
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

WANG, ALBERT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/078,723

Applicant(s)

DUBAL, SCOTT P.

Examiner

Albert Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24 April 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1-6 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ken Yap, "Etherboot Developers Manual", v5.0.1, 4 May 2001 ("Yap"), in view of Leung et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,647 ("Leung").

As per claim 1, Yap teaches method comprising:

creating a compressed boot image from a boot image for a network adapter (sec. 3.2, applying compressor program to Etherboot image for network adapter); and
programming the compressed boot image into a boot ROM of the network adapter (sec. 3.2, "Etherboot allows the code to be compressed before loading into ROM").

However, Yap does not expressly teach receiving the boot image for the network adapter from a server via a network. Yap refers to the boot image as a form of BIOS extension (sec. 3.1), which is commonly stored in an option ROM of an adapter card. Leung teaches receiving an option ROM image from a server via a network (col. 7, lines 10-23) for the purpose of flashing the option ROM image into an option ROM of a host adapter (fig. 3, using option ROM

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BIOS programming utility 140; fig. 5, steps 414-420; col. 6, lines 7-18). Leung allows for “different types of host adapters” by implementing them as PCI cards that connect to a PCI bus (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4). Network adapters, otherwise referred as network interface cards or NICs, for PCI buses are well known in the art. Yap teaches detecting whether or not an option ROM of a network adapter, which may be a PCI card, contains boot code (sec. 3.1). Thus, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that Yap’s boot image may be received via a network in the manner of Leung’s option ROM image, as Yap’s boot image is a form of BIOS extension (Yap, sec. 3.1).

Yap teaches further that creating the compressed boot image is performed by a utility program (sec. 3.2, compressor program). In order to be executed, Yap’s utility program is stored inherently in storage device (secs. 3.1 & 3.2, RAM). Leung teaches that standard architecture has RAM located outside of adapter cards (fig. 1B). Leung teaches a similar utility program (fig. 3, option ROM BIOS programming utility 140; fig. 5, steps 414-420; col. 5, lines 30-39, RAM 120; col. 6, lines 7-18).

As per claim 2, Yap teaches programming a loader into a boot image (sec. 3.2).

As per claim 3, Yap teaches programming a decompressor into a boot image (sec. 3.2).

As per claim 4, Yap teaches programming a header into a boot image (sec. 3.2).

As per claim 5, Yap teaches identifying in the header that the boot image is compressed (sec. 3.2).

As per claim 6, Yap teaches identifying in the header a location of the loader in the boot ROM (sec. 3.2).

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As per claim 21, Yap teaches an electronic device comprising:

a processor (sec. 3.1, CPU inherent in personal computer);

a network adapter comprising a boot ROM with a boot image (sec. 3.1, “When network adaptors were made for the PC, it was a natural step to put ROMs on them that could contact a server for network booting.”); and

a storage device comprising a utility program that when executed on the processor is to compress a boot image for the network adapter into a compressed boot image (secs. 3.1 & 3.2, stored inherently in RAM in order to be executed; sec. 3.2, compressor program),

However, while Yap teaches programming a compressed boot image into the boot ROM of the adapter (sec. 3.2), Yap does not expressly teach the utility program for doing so. Yap refers to the boot image as a form of BIOS extension (sec. 3.1), which is commonly stored in an option ROM of an adapter card. Leung teaches a storage device holding utility programs (col. 5, lines 30-39, RAM 120) and a utility program for flashing an option image into an option ROM of an adapter (fig. 3, option ROM BIOS programming utility 140; fig. 5, steps 414-420; col. 6, lines 7-18).). Leung allows for “different types of host adapters” by implementing them as PCI cards that connect to a PCI bus (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4). Network adapters, otherwise referred as network interface cards or NICs, for PCI buses are well known in the art. Yap teaches detecting whether or not an option ROM of a network adapter, which may be a PCI card, contains boot code (sec. 3.1). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to that Leung’s programming utility may be applied to Yap’s boot image, as Yap’s boot image is a form of BIOS extension (Yap, sec. 3.1). Furthermore, since Yap teaches both compressing and loading a boot image into the boot ROM (sec. 3.2, “Etherboot

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allows the code to be compressed before loading into ROM”), and since programs are modular, it would have been obvious that the functions of Yap’s compressor program and Leung’s utility program may be combined into a single utility program.

Leung teaches further that standard architecture has RAM located outside of adapter cards (fig. 1B). Leung teaches a similar utility program (fig. 3, option ROM BIOS programming utility 140; fig. 5, steps 414-420; col. 5, lines 30-39, RAM 120; col. 6, lines 7-18).

As per claim 22, Yap teaches programming a loader and decompressor into a boot image (sec. 3.2).

As per claim 23, Yap teaches the boot image is further to boot an electronic device (sec. 3.1).

As per claim 24, Yap teaches a BIOS to detect the boot ROM (sec. 3.1, main BIOS).

Conclusion

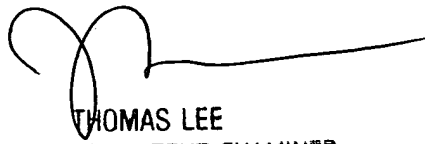
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert Wang whose telephone number is 571-272-3669. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AW



THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100